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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE, 1928

NUMBER 6

JUNE MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., at 8 o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, second floor, Room 19.

Miss M. E. McLellan, Curator of Birds at the California Academy of Sciences, will read a paper on her Observations on Birds in Mexico. Miss McLellan has made several expeditions into Mexico for the California Academy of Sciences, and will on this occasion report the most interesting features of her ornithological observations.

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JUNE FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, June 17th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. We shall not climb to the top of the bluff on this occasion, but party will keep to the lower levels, thus making the walk a very easy one. There will be ample time, however, for those so inclined, to make a side trip to Pirate's Cove, if desired.

Take 8:15 a. m. Sausalito ferry and purchase round-trip tickets to Manzanita, 48c. Bring lunch and canteens, as there is no drinking water at the beach where lunch will be eaten. Leader: Mr. Arthur H. Myer.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY MEETING: The one hundred and thirty-fourth regular meeting of the Association was held on the 10th of May, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary.

Mr. W. K. Winterhalter was present in representation of the Commonwealth Club of California, having been especially delegated by the Forest and Wild Life Section of the Club, in special interest in the selection of the State Bird for California.

Activities in the State Bird campaign were reported upon and discussed (as recorded elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Mrs. Kibbe informed the members interested in bird life that they could secure a copy of the Teachers' Bulletin No. 9, by applying to the California Division of Fish and Game, Postal Telegraph Building.

Mrs. Kibbe reported having seen approximately 100 egrets, as well as snowy egrets, in the Los Baños marshes.

The entertainment of the evening was afforded by Mr. C. A. Harwell, who gave a lecture, analytical and descriptive, of voices and songs of birds. Mr. Harwell reproduced some of the bird notes with remarkable accuracy, while on the other hand some of his imitations were not very close. In this

connection it appears that besides that of reproduction, there entered the serious element of differences in individual perceptions, to the extent that the same notes produced by different causes must sound differently to different ears. Is it not similar to the case that different persons ascribe different human wordings to the songs of the birds that they attempt to transcribe?

Mr. Harwell made his lecture the more interesting by accompanying it with lantern slide projections of many of our more common birds, including practically all of the candidates for the State Bird.



BIRD LIFE IN FOREST HILL, SAN FRANCISCO

It is unnecessary for a person to be a thorough ornithologist or to seek out rare birds in tropical jungles or Arctic tundras to derive great pleasure from observing our feathered neighbors. In proof of this statement I offer my experience as evidence. With but a moderate knowledge of ornithology, I have enjoyed watching the birds that visit the neighborhood of my residence on the edge of Forest Hill in San Francisco. There are few houses, many trees and considerable brushy land very near the house where many birds are to be found.

One of the most surprising things is to round a corner in an automobile and see a mother quail and her brood of young ones scurry across the street to safety into a hedge. They are easily observed giving themselves a "dry cleaning" in a dust bath, feeding quietly under the security of the sentinel's watchfulness, and roosting in the trees with much clucking and chatting with each other.

Last year a hermit thrush honored us by building a nest and raising a brood in a honeysuckle climbing up our back steps. It was only a few feet from a frequented passage and by leaning over the rail we could keep track of the progress from the building of the nest to the hatching of the eggs.

Frequently birds enter the house by mistake. Once a humming bird got trapped on the porch and when caught he "played possum" as well as the inventor of the game. But as soon as the window was opened he lost no time in seeing this opportunity of escape, instantly flying out of the open palm of my child that was to carry it outside. The humming birds take a great delight in having a shower bath from the hose's spray in the garden, many of them darting in and out of and poising in the shower.

Nuttall and song sparrows are all the year 'round neighbors. The Nuttall Sparrows either keep scandalously irregular hours or have the habit of singing in their sleep, for we have heard them at all hours through the night. The golden crowned sparrow is somewhat rarer. Happily that bumptious youngster of the city slums, the English sparrow, finds it too tame and countrified to suit him in the neighborhood. Regular yearly visitors are the linnets, pine siskins, Audubon warblers, and gold-finches. The robins, too, come regularly to decorate the lawn. One year we had varied thrushes in considerable numbers. Occasionally at night can be heard the ghostly "Hoo-oo-oo hoo hoo" of an owl, and a few times in the dusk we have sighted one gliding among the trees. Flickers are by no means rare, and often in the early morning we can hear them squawking their matins from the top of a tall eucalyptus tree. In the patches of low brush just to the west of Forest Hill Oregon towhees are common.

And so with a limited knowledge and little time to seek out the birds I have derived much pleasure from their presence. I have limited my narration to those that have been positively identified and regret that I most probably omit others.

ROBERT M. LEGGETT.

THE STATE BIRD CAMPAIGN

At the May meeting of the Association Mr. Harwell, the Chairman of the State Bird Committee, reported on many activities that had engaged his attention and disclosing a growing interest in the campaign. He expressed the hope that this campaign may not be brought to a premature close. The great benefit is in the increased interest in bird life expressed all over the State. Milton Bradley are having so many requests from teachers for accurate pictures of our twenty-two candidates that they will soon have sets assembled suitable to be sold to schools and others. The plan is to have the voting take place in the fall and winter months. It is expected at the numerous and various summer camps held all over the State that the subject will be one of popular interest.

Since the last meeting the National Broadcasting Co. has had a competent speaker on the subject for a few minutes' talk at each Thursday evening Philco Hour from 9:30 to 10, on which occasion Mr. Harwell and a representative from the Fish and Game Commission will discourse on the subject. Mr. Harwell has also broadcasted over KGO and KJBS.

Miss Clelia A. Paroni, as Supervisor of Nature Study and member of State Bird Committee, is directing activities of the campaign in the Berkeley public schools.

The hunters of California, members of sporting and gun clubs, the latter also associated into one organization, have already made their selection in favor of the California Quail, and apparently will continue strenuous efforts to have their candidate finally selected for the honor. Officers of this Association have interviewed some of those of the associated sportsmen, and the best spirit of friendly competition will be observed during the campaign.

The California Development Association has recommended the Band-tailed Pigeon, "one of the oldest known birds which provided valuable food for the earliest settlers," and "it is protected by law."

Californians Inc. suggest the Blue Bird, "symbol of happiness," with "its range pretty well throughout the entire State."

* * *

BIRD LIFE IN CARMEL, MONTEREY CO.

All lovers of birds should come to Carmel-by-the-Sea and enjoy its wealth of bird life; particularly those swift messengers of the air, the wild pigeons.

My hotel room overlooks the tall pines that shelter and obscure the picturesque village, and between the hours of 6 and 7 a. m. and again in the evening about the same hour there seems to be a regular flight of "band tails."

A little before seven this morning I was enjoying the scene of a perfect day when a rush of wings was heard and along came a great band of wild pigeons flying just over the tops of the pines, say 150 feet elevation. They extended in skirmish formation—not one behind the other, and the flock seemed about 25 yards wide and stretched at least a quarter of a mile. An observer could only guess their number as they passed so quickly.

These birds seem to come down the Carmel Valley until they meet the sea and then turn north and probably roost in the Del Monte forest on the Monterey Peninsula.

On the ocean beach can be seen flocks of curlew and knots of sandpipers. The other evening a small band of "peeps" were feeding ahead of me when along came a small "falcon" just skimming over the sand. He was a sparrow

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hawk who darted into the flock and emerged with a piper in his talon and flew to a high perch for his supper.

Over the surf fly gulls and terns and on the rocky points are oyster catchers, shags, and some small waders.

Also I must not forget the bunch of surf ducks or scoters who spend their time loafing among the kelp or bobbing among the restless breakers.

The large lagoon at the mouth of the Carmel River has a great flock of gulls refreshing themselves in the fresh water.

Altogether, Carmel and its surroundings present an attractive exhibit.

Carmel, May 3, 1928.

M. HALL McALLISTER.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: THE GULL of August, 1920, and January, 1921, contained a list of birds of Carmel.]

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MAY FIELD TRIP: On Sunday, May 13th, the Audubon party went to St. Mary's (Cashion), Contra Costa County, and walked nearly to Burton, along Cashion Creek.

The weather was perfect, I thought, and evidently the birds thought so, too. There were so many singing at once that it was sometimes difficult to distinguish individual songs.

Among the interesting things seen were a flock of about ten western tanagers, three spotted sandpipers and the nests of cliff swallows, Nuttall woodpecker, black phoebe and linnet.

Birds encountered were: turkey vulture, western red-tailed hawk, desert sparrow hawk, coast California quail, kildeer, Hudsonian curlew, spotted and western sandpipers, western, California and Bonaparte gulls, western mourning dove, Anna and Allen humming birds, Nuttall ladder-backed and California acorn-storing woodpeckers, Monterey red-shafted flicker, northern ash-throated flycatcher, black phoebe, common western wood pewee, yellow-bellied western flycatcher, northern cliff, barn and violet-green swallows, California jay, California plain titmouse, slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch, Vigor's bewick and western house wrens, Pacific russet-backed thrush, western Mexican bluebird, western warbling vireo, lutescent, California yellow and golden pileolated warblers, San Francisco red-winged blackbird, western meadowlark, Bullock oriole, California Brewer blackbird, western tanager, Pacific black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting, California purple finch, California linnet, green-backed and Lawrence gold-finches, San Francisco brown towhee, western chipping sparrow, Santa Cruz song sparrow—fifty species.

Members in attendance: Mrs. Myer; Misses Ames, Ethel and Martha Crum, Sterne; Dr. Card; Messrs. Lockerbie, Myer. Guests: Mesdames Lockerbie, Mott, E. B. Smith; Miss Kautz; Richard Giddings, Stuart Grinnel, Philipps Sebastian—seven members, seven guests.

ISABEL AMES, *Historian*.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

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